

Monday, December 01, 2003

PSYOP team making friends with *Baghdad Now* newspaper

Story and photos by Sgt. Mark S. Rickert, 372nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq – As soldiers drop a bundle of the latest “Baghdad Now” newspaper onto the sidewalk, Iraqi children tackle the newspaper heap like a fumbled football during the Super Bowl.

Whether they are concerned citizens or just children who like to read, “Baghdad Now” is drawing an enormous fan base. The newspaper’s hype and its remarkably low price (it’s free!) make the paper a useful tool for the 361st Psychological Operations Company (Tactical), an Army Reserve Unit from Bothell, Wash., which is currently supporting the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, part of Task Force 1st Armored Division.

Every month, the psychological operations team distributes 70,000 issues to the people in Baghdad. The paper not only increases public awareness toward safety hazards, such as celebratory fire, but it also keeps the community informed on what the U.S. and coalition forces are doing for Iraq.

“The paper shows how we interact with the Iraqi government during this transitional period, and how we, together, are improving life in Baghdad,” said Staff Sgt. Richard K. Wilson, who is the tactical psychological operations team chief. “More importantly, we want the people to know what’s going, so they can see how they are making a difference. This way they can say, ‘hey, my community made this happen.’”

Distributing the paper creates an effective medium for communication, opening many doors previously closed to the soldiers. According to Wilson, handing out newspapers gives the soldiers “instant access” to the community.

“Any time you give these people something, their defenses come down—it’s human nature,” said Wilson. “We gain instant access by giving them something, and they spread the message expressed in these newspapers.”

“The act of giving anything to these people is an act of goodwill,” said Sgt. Owen J. Jungemann. “Especially for people who don’t get a lot of anything, especially information. Papers cost money, and they don’t have money. So any access to information is good.”

By showing the Iraqi people how the coalition forces are helping to improve Baghdad, the psychological operations team hopes to increase positive attitudes toward the coalition and, in turn, decrease anti-coalition behavior.



An Iraqi child holds up the latest issue of “Baghdad Now” handed out by Sgt. Cornell W. Yell.

“It’s important for us to show what the coalition is doing here,” said Jungemann. “Positive feelings toward Americans here result in fewer of us dying. When people see that we are rebuilding schools and improving their way of life, they are less likely to act violently toward us.”

Through face-to-face encounters, the psychological operations team also forms ties with community leaders, such as religious leaders, medical practitioners and professors. Befriending these key voices of the community is an effective approach for spreading a positive message.

“It is extremely important that we gain the support of these key communicators, and so far, we’ve built strong, solid relations within the community,” said Wilson. “This way, they will speak on our behalf, and people will listen.”

News...

Taliban Frees Kidnapped Turkish Engineer

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) - Taliban insurgents freed a Turkish road engineer who was kidnapped a month ago in southern Afghanistan, officials said Sunday. During his captivity, Hasan Onal was apparently transferred to different villages with support from local people, said Mufit Ozdes, Turkey's ambassador to Afghanistan.

Palestinian Negotiators Agree to Summit

JERUSALEM (AP) - A U.S. envoy voiced concern about a West Bank separation barrier in talks with Israeli officials on Sunday, while key Palestinian negotiators agreed to attend the launch of a symbolic peace accord after initially canceling. Two Palestinian Cabinet ministers and two legislators at first said Sunday they would withdraw from the ceremony that is to take place in Geneva on Monday, but changed their minds by the end of the day.

Pope Offers Prayers for Those With AIDS

VATICAN CITY (AP) - On the eve of World AIDS Day, Pope John Paul II offered prayers Sunday to those who suffer from the deadly disease as he encouraged those in the Roman Catholic Church who care for them to continue their efforts. John Paul's comments, delivered in his traditional Sunday greeting, came amid renewed criticism of Vatican opposition to using condoms to prevent the transmission of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. The Vatican maintains that chastity is the best method of prevention.

2003 Atlantic Hurricane Season Active

MIAMI (AP) - The 2003 Atlantic hurricane season was busier than usual, with 14 named storms blamed for 62 deaths by the season's end Sunday, but forecasters say it could have been worse. Hurricane Fabian was the strongest of the storms to hit land, raking Bermuda with 120 mph wind that tore up roofs and roads in early September. Two weeks later, Hurricane Isabel plowed into North Carolina's Outer Banks with 100 mph wind and became the season's deadliest and most damaging storm.

Safety Tip:

VEHICLE REGULATIONS APPLY, EVEN IN WAR ZONES:

- KEVLAR helmets and seatbelts must be worn
- Troop straps must be in place
- All limbs must be kept inside vehicles
- No smoking in any vehicle
- Speed limits must be obeyed
- Troops will be carried only when troop seats are provided
- Troops cannot be carried with cargo

In other News...

Alaska Ice Hotel Controversy Heats Up

FAIRBANKS, Alaska (AP) -- The state fire marshal has put a freeze on construction of an ice hotel near Fairbanks, but the man behind the sub-arctic architecture is still chipping away.

The Alaska Fire Marshal's office on Nov. 21 ordered a halt to construction of the planned Aurora Ice Hotel at Chena Hot Springs Resort, citing unspecified building code and public safety concerns.

The 30-foot-high, seven-room Gothic palace was intended to be a tourist draw similar to ice hotels in Scandinavia and Quebec. Creator Bernie Karl had planned to charge guests \$878 for a two-person, two-night stay that included Arctic-grade sleeping bags and other survival gear.

Karl is continuing work with champion ice carver Steve Brice, but now says what he's building isn't a hotel, but one of Alaska's largest works of art.

"Under my First Amendment rights, I have the right to create an ice sculpture and that's what we're doing," Karl told the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner for a story in Saturday's edition. "I suppose that this could be a long, lengthy battle, but under my First Amendment rights, they can't stop me from making a work of art, I believe."

Karl said the structure, which he expects to complete by Christmas, will be very similar to the plans for the hotel.

Deputy State Fire Marshal Tom DePeter Jr. said the order to stop construction was issued because officials have many unanswered questions about the project, but he added that hotel construction could resume if the safety concerns are addressed.

"I think it's a great idea and hopefully it will be a real boon to the local economy and Mr. Karl," DePeter said.

Plans called for the structure to have 8-foot-thick side walls of snow and ice, reinforced with laminated wood arches, metal bands, chicken wire and refrigeration lines.

Chaplain's thought for the day

If You Don't Decide . . . Someone Else Will

Former president Ronald Reagan once had an aunt who took him to a cobbler for a pair of new shoes. The cobbler asked young Reagan, "Do you want square toes or round toes?" Unable to decide, Reagan didn't answer, so the cobbler gave him a few days. Several days later the cobbler saw Reagan on the street and asked him again what kind of toes he wanted on his shoes. Reagan still couldn't decide, so the shoemaker replied, "Well, come by in a couple of days. Your shoes will be ready."

When the future president did so, he found one square-toed and one round-toed shoe! "This will teach you to never let people make decisions for you," the cobbler said to his indecisive customer. "I learned right then and there," Reagan said later, "if you don't make your own decisions, someone else will."





























Today in the Word, MBI, August, 1991, p. 16

The Old Ironsides Report

December 1, 2003

myafn.net TV SCHEDULES: MONDAY, DECEMBER 01, 2003				As of: Sunday, November 30, 2003 8:46:21 PM		
Start Time	SPORTS	ATLANTIC	SPECTRUM	PACIFIC	NEWS	Start Time
00:00	NFL - CLEVELAND BROWNS @ SEATTLE SEAHAWKS	NFL - NEW ORLEANS SAINTS @ WASHINGTON REDSKINS	MAGNUM P.I. : - HEAL THYSELF	NFL - DENVER BRONCOS @ OAKLAND RAIDERS	CNN SUNDAY	00:00
01:00			FAMILY TIES : - JUST ONE LOOK		MEET THE PRESS	01:00
01:30			THE COSBY SHOW : - CLIFF BABY SITS			01:30
02:00			CHIPS : - MOVING VIOLATION		TIM RUSSERT	02:00
03:00	SPORTSCENTER	HEADLINE NEWS	RUGRATS : - BROTHERS ARE MONSTERS	DORA: THE EXPLORER	FOX REPORT	03:00
03:30	NFL PRIMETIME	SEINFELD : - THE BUBBLE BOY	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS : - HOOKY / MERMAID MAN AND BARNAACLE BOY II	WHEEL OF FORTUNE		03:30
04:00		THAT 70'S SHOW : - ROLLER DISCO	THE SIMPSONS : - A TALE OF TWO SPRINGFIELDS	THE DR. PHIL SHOW	THIS WEEK	04:00
04:30	NFL - TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS @ JACKSONVILLE JAGUARS	ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT	HOME IMPROVEMENT : - ADIOS			04:30
05:00			BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER : - SELFLESS	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW : - OPRAH'S FAVORITE THINGS 2003	DATELINE INTERNATIONAL	05:00
05:30		WWE SMACKDOWN!				05:30
06:00			LAW & ORDER : - AMENDS	HEADLINE NEWS	60 MINUTES	06:00
06:30		AMERICA'S BLACK FORUM		JUDGE JUDY		06:30
07:00		MEET THE PRESS	CRITICAL RESCUE : - WHEN SECONDS COUNT	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	CNN PRESENTS	07:00
07:25				GUIDING LIGHT		07:25
07:30	SPORTSCENTER					07:30
08:00		HEADLINE NEWS	AMERICAN CHOPPER		LARRY KING LIVE	08:00
08:13				GENERAL HOSPITAL		08:13
08:30		ESPNEWS				08:30
09:00	NFL PRIMETIME	SESAME STREET	TWISTER	ZOOBOOMAFOO : - STINKY	AT LARGE WITH GERALDO RIVERA	09:00
09:30				DISNEY'S BUZZ LIGHTYEAR OF STAR COMMAND : - OPPOSITES		09:30
10:00	SPORTSCENTER	DORA: THE EXPLORER		CYBERCHASE	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	10:00
10:30		WHEEL OF FORTUNE		EVEN STEVENS : - LOUIS IN THE MIDDLE		10:30
11:00	SPORTSCENTER	THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW : - OPRAH'S FAVORITE THINGS 2003	RUGRATS : - BROTHERS ARE MONSTERS	JEOPARDY!	BELTWAY BOYS	11:00
11:30	NHL - ANAHEIM MIGHTY DUCKS @ MINNESOTA WILD		SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS : - HOOKY / MERMAID MAN AND BARNAACLE BOY II	HEADLINE NEWS	FOX NEWS WATCH	11:30
11:52				PACIFIC REPORT		11:52
12:00		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	THE SIMPSONS : - A TALE OF TWO SPRINGFIELDS	ESPNEWS	BULLS & BEARS	12:00
12:25		GUIDING LIGHT				12:25
12:30			HOME IMPROVEMENT : - ADIOS	HEADLINE NEWS	CAVUTO ON BUSINESS	12:30
12:52				PACIFIC REPORT		12:52
13:00			BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER : - SELFLESS	60 MINUTES	ACCESS HOLLYWOOD	13:00
13:13		GENERAL HOSPITAL				13:13
14:00	SPORTSCENTER	HEADLINE NEWS	LAW & ORDER : - AMENDS	NYPD BLUE : - BELOW THE BELT	DATELINE NBC	14:00
14:30		JUDGE JUDY				14:30
15:00		TODAY	CRITICAL RESCUE : - WHEN SECONDS COUNT	C.S.I.: MIAMI : - TINDER BOX	GOOD MORNING AMERICA	15:00
15:30	GOLF - 2003 SKINS GAME					15:30
16:00			AMERICAN CHOPPER	HEADLINE NEWS		16:00
16:22				PACIFIC REPORT		16:22
16:30				TONIGHT SHOW WITH JAY LENO		16:30
17:00		ZOOBOOMAFOO : - STINKY	TWISTER		HEADLINE NEWS	17:00
17:30		DISNEY'S BUZZ LIGHTYEAR OF STAR COMMAND : - OPPOSITES		THE LATE SHOW WITH DAVID LETTERMAN	CHANNEL ONE	17:30
17:45					WORLD NEWS THIS MORNING	17:45
18:00	ESPNEWS	CYBERCHASE			THE EARLY SHOW	18:00
18:30	NBA FASTBREAK	EVEN STEVENS : - LOUIS IN THE MIDDLE		ACCESS HOLLYWOOD		18:30
19:00	SPORTSCENTER	JEOPARDY!	RUGRATS : - BROTHERS ARE MONSTERS	PARENTHOOD		19:00
19:30		HEADLINE NEWS	SPONGEBOB SQUAREPANTS : - HOOKY / MERMAID MAN AND BARNAACLE BOY II			19:30
20:00		ESPNEWS	THE SIMPSONS : - A TALE OF TWO SPRINGFIELDS		FOX NEWS LIVE	20:00
20:30	NHL - NEW JERSEY DEVILS @ COLORADO AVALANCHE	HEADLINE NEWS	HOME IMPROVEMENT : - ADIOS			20:30
21:00		60 MINUTES	BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER : - SELFLESS	THE GREAT WALDO PEPPER	DATELINE NBC	21:00
22:00		NYPD BLUE : - BELOW THE BELT	LAW & ORDER : - AMENDS		FOX NEWS LIVE	22:00
23:00	ESPNEWS	C.S.I.: MIAMI : - TINDER BOX	CRITICAL RESCUE : - WHEN SECONDS COUNT	HEADLINE NEWS	HEADLINE NEWS	23:00
23:30	ESPNEWS			ESPNEWS	INSIDE POLITICS	23:30

The Old Ironsides Report December 1, 2003

	DOLPHINS (8-4)	40		PACKERS (6-6)	14		PATRIOTS (10-2)	38
	COWBOYS (8-4)	21		LIONS (4-8)	22		COLTS (9-3)	34
	RAMS (9-3)	48		EAGLES (9-3)	25		BEARS (5-7)	28
	VIKINGS (7-5)	17		PANTHERS (8-4)	16		CARDINALS (3-9)	3
	TEXANS (5-7)	17		BENGALS (7-5)	24		RAVENS (7-5)	44
	FALCONS (2-10)	13		STEELERS (4-8)	20		49ERS (5-7)	6
	BILLS (5-7)	24		SAINTS (5-6)	24		CHIEFS (11-1)	28
	GIANTS (4-8)	7		REDSKINS (4-7)	20		CHARGERS (2-10)	24
	SEAHAWKS (8-4)	34					BRONCOS (6-5)	22
	BROWNS (4-8)	7					RAIDERS (3-8)	8